Poverty alleviation programmes

493. DR. (SHRIMATI) NAJMA A. HEPTULLA:
SHRI MAHENDRA MOHAN:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that poverty alleviation programmes in India have not been able to create a balanced impact and there are still a large number of people living on less than Rs. 20/-a day;

(b) whether Government are also aware that Bangladesh has fared better than Indian in terms of poverty alleviation, according to a recent study of the US-based International Food Policy Research Institute (IFPRI);

(c) if so, whether Government have prepared any roadmap to increase the income level of poor;

(d) whether Government have made any evaluation of existing programmes through an independent study; and

(e) if not, the reason thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING (SHRI M.V. RAJASEKHARAN): (a) Based on the percentage of rural and urban population below specified levels of monthly per capita consumption expenditure (MPCE) given in the Report No. 508 (61/1.01), "Level and Pattern of Consumer Expenditure, 2004-05", of NSS 61st Round (July 2004-June 2005) brought out by the National Sample Survey Organization (NSSO), Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation, Government of India, the per capita consumption expenditure of 56.1 crore people in rural areas and 10.1 crore people in urban areas is less than Rs. 20 per day. This estimate includes people above and below the proverty line.

(b) and (c) The International Food Policy Research Institute (IFPRI) in a study titled "The Challenge of Hunger 2007" have ranked 118 countries on the basis of a Global Hunger Index. According to this index India fares better with an index of 25.03 compared to Bangladesh with an index of 28.40.

The Government has adopted a three pronged strategy to improve the living standard to the poor in urban and in rural areas: (i) acceleration of economic growth with a focus on sectors which are employment intensive; (ii) human and social development though provision of basic minimum services; and (iii) targeted anti-poverty programmes. In urban areas the Ministry of Housing Urban Poverty Alleviation is implementing the SJSRM scheme and in rural areas, the programmes implemented by the Ministry of Rural Development include (i) Sampoorna Grameen Rozgar Yojana (SGRY), (ii) Swarnanjayanti Gram Swarozgar Yojana (SGSY), (iii) Indira Awas Yojana (IAY) and (iv) National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme, among others.

(d) The concerned Ministries undertake evaluation studies from time to time through reputed research organizations/institutions to evalute the performance and assess the impact of the programmes and to identify problems in course of implementation to make mid-term corrections, wherever necessary.

(e) Does not arise.

Unemployment in the country

494. SHRI JAI PARKASH AGGARWAL: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the unemployment is rapidly increasing in the country due to fall in production;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the remedial steps taken by Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING (SHRI M.V. RAJASEKHARAN): (a) to (c) As per two most recent quinquennial rounds of National Sample Survey Organization, unemployment rate on Current Daily Status (CDS) basis has increased from 7.31% in 1999-2000 (55th round) to 8.28% in 2004-05 (61st round). The growth rate of Gross Domestic Product (GDP) during 1999-2000 to 2004-05 was estimated at 6.13% per annum.

Observation by World Bank's India based Director

495. SHRI VIJAY J. DARDA: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware of observations made by World Bank's India-based Director during September, 2007 that 'sustainability of India's growth story would critically depend on the manner in which country addressed the constraints of infrastructure, skill enhancement and education';

(b) if so, whether Eleventh Five Year Plan 2007-2012 would adequately take care of this situation in spite of often-repeated 'constraint of resources' syndrome; and

(c) whether farm economy having minimum growth rate, adversely effecting DGP, would multi-dimensional attention be paid to it?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING (SHRI M.V. RAJASEKHARAN): (a)Yes, Sir. As per a newspaper report, the World Bank's country Director for India, Isabel M. Guerrero, said that, "sustainability of India's growth story would critically depend on how the country addressed the constraints of infrastructure, skill enhancement and